

Commissioners
Arizona Corporation Commission

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
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Dear members of the Arizona Corporation Commission,

Docket Number: E-01345A-16-0036 + E-01345A-16 2017 MAY 31 A 10:20

Please say NO to the proposed APS rate hikes.

I have been an APS customer since more than 12 years and now am a rooftop solar APS customer, helping the utility to meet its mandated renewable energy goal. Rooftop solar thus provides a saving to APS in not having to build its own solar farm. However, APS clearly is set to undermine the rooftop solar industry in AZ.

The proposed rate hikes are clearly intended to discourage roof-top solar. Some of you Commissioners have used misleading campaign propoganda to gain re-election to the Commission. You claimed you are a champion for solar electric power, without admitting that you support APS as solar power generator and supplier, but not rooftop solar. This has been very upsetting because for environmental reasons rooftop solar makes much more sense than huge solar 'farms'. In the calculations of financial advantages of feeding roof top solar into the APS grid, a number of cost savings for APS are not included (e.g., savings on transmission losses by having rooftop solar power going to neighboring houses without rooftop solar (transmission losses are high if that energy comes from an APS solar farm; savings on peak summer hour rooftop solar energy generated and fed into the grid; the delay in inspection and hookup to the grid for rooftop solar customers is up to three months after requesting hookup -- those three months do not generate electricity credit but should be given to the rooftop customer who has to foot the full APS bill even though he has been generating power already since up to 3 months, but APS won't come out to 'throw the switch'; surplus accumulated roof top electricity is surely used by APS but not carried over into the winter months, when the credit would be needed by the rooftop customer, yet APS gives credit only at wholesale price in December, resetting the account to zero kWh. Rooftop solar generation reduces the cost for APS regarding need for generating stations or importing electricity in peak demand times when that electricity is at premium cost. There may be need for new generating stations but that need likely is driven mainly by new customers, and not entirely by the need for supplying enough electricity to rooftop solar customers on cloudy days).

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As an APS rooftop or other customer, the need for APS to invest in costly generation, transmission and distribution is reduced when I reduce my electricity use from APS. However, if APS increases its monthly fixed fee, consumers who work hard to conserve energy and be more energy efficient can't do anything to reduce that fee. That isn't fair. Please oppose any increase to the basic service charge.

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Please also vote NO on mandatory residential demand charges. I appreciate that the Commission did not approve these charges in its recent decisions on the UNS Electric and TEP rate cases. Please continue that trend. The formula of charging consumers for the maximum amount of demand used in only one hour of the month is an outrageous proposition; it will manyfold increase what consumers pay each month and decrease incentives to reduce energy use, but fatten the pockets of APS. APS is the richest utility

company in the US, and the AZCC seems eager to help the company get even richer.

Please say NO to these unfair utility charges.

Sincerely,

MS. Birgit Loewenstein
400 Smoke Trail Lane
Sedona, AZ 86336